

*Social Security Hearing on B-318 for July 15, 2010*

*Hearing on Social Security at 75 Years: More Necessary Now than Ever*

*Joyce Randolph, Retired, UTLA, Los Angeles*

*I am writing regarding the unjust treatment I have received as a widow and retired teacher of LAUSD. The Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision passed by Congress in the 1980's denies me the just compensation I should receive from my husband's social security and his contribution of 30+ years. As I was a public school teacher and receive a small pension (therefore, receiving a payment from a "government entity" of the city of Los Angeles), the government denies me my husband's social security, that I had depended on for retirement. They subtract my pension from the social security I would receive and it is canceled out. I receive nothing from my husband. I qualify for social security on my own from work of many years ago (at very low wages) and they even subtract 60+ percent of that which almost eliminates any social security for me. Friends of mine who have worked for private industry, who were born before 1927, and those who never worked at all but receive their husband's social security and even two wives of one friend receive his social security, but I am denied mine because I dared work for the public school system. I find it hard to locate a more discriminatory law on the books and one that especially eliminates teachers. We took lower pay and gave so much public service for years only to be denied the same benefits others receive. I hope you will eliminate these two discriminatory laws, especially for widows and widowers. If the spouse is alive,*

*they have a chance to apply for and get their social security on their own and the wife or husband receives their teacher pension. That is fair. But, my husband never lived to activate his social security and I cannot get it, therefore, we will never see one dime of his 30+ years of contributions, which I need in retirement. Please act to eliminate this unfairness. Thank you.*